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SELA OPENS DEBATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PA141842 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Text] The members of the Latin American Economic System, SELA, opened a debate here today for the creation of a supporting action committee for the economic and social development of Central America. The opening session was attended by SELA's Assistant Permanent Secretary Homero Luis Hernandez, (Rodolfo Trejos), the assistant executive secretary of the Central American Economic System, and Menalco Solis, the Panamanian planning and economic policy minister. They all cited the aims of the committee within the objectives of Latin American cooperation and solidarity.

Some of the main objectives and functions of the committee include supporting and strengthening integration mechanisms in the Central American area; obtaining financial and technological resources to support the execution of programs, projects, and actions in the priority areas for the economic and social development of the five Central American nations; and contributing to strengthening and consolidating relations of economic and social cooperation between the nations of the area, the rest of Latin America, and the Caribbean for the primary purpose of raising the living standards and the welfare of the peoples.

In his welcoming address, Panamanian Planning Minister Menalco Solis told the representatives of the 25 nations and 15 organizations participating in the meeting that the supporting action committee for Central American economic and social development constitutes a logical link in the chain of measures taken so far to contribute to the solution of the drama affecting the nations of the isthmus; that is, parallel to the Contadora Group, which is continuing its efforts within political commitments, there should exist another entity responsible in a general way for speeding up economic and social progress in Central America.

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